

Response
Application No. 09/881,784
Attorney Docket No. 010746

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, and claims 3, 4, 6, 9 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 17, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 4 of the Office Action that claims 7 and 8 have been allowed.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 3 of the Office Action that claims 3-6 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 3, 4 and 6 have been rewritten into independent to include the features of base claim 1. Thus, new independent claims 3, 4 and 6 are allowable and claim 5 is allowable by its dependency on claim 4.

In addition, it is respectfully the allowable features of claim 3 have been included into independent claim 11. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 11 is also now allowable.

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As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

claims 1, 2 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Takayama et al. (of record). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claims 9, 10 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that Takayama does not teach the features of claims 9, 10 and 12 concerning detecting pixel defect in a first direction and pixel detect in a second direction different from the first direction of an arrangement of consecutively adjoining ones of identical color and determining as fault pixels those pixels which have been detected as defect both in the first and second directions.

Instead, Takayama discloses obtaining a mean value of peripheral pixels surrounding the image data of the defective pixel, which is used for replacement based on the positional information of the defective pixel. See, i.e., equations (1) – (12) set forth in cols. 14 and 15 of Takayama, which are all concerned with obtaining a mean value, as discussed above.

In other words, the Examiner's assertion that "the correlation between the pixel to be tested and the surrounding pixels includes correlation in both horizontal and vertical directions," is a mischaracterization of the teachings of Takayama and does not constitute the above-noted

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features of claims 9, 10 and 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on Takayama is respectfully requested.

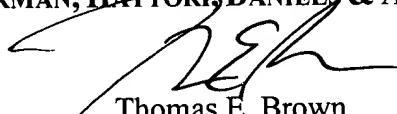
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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